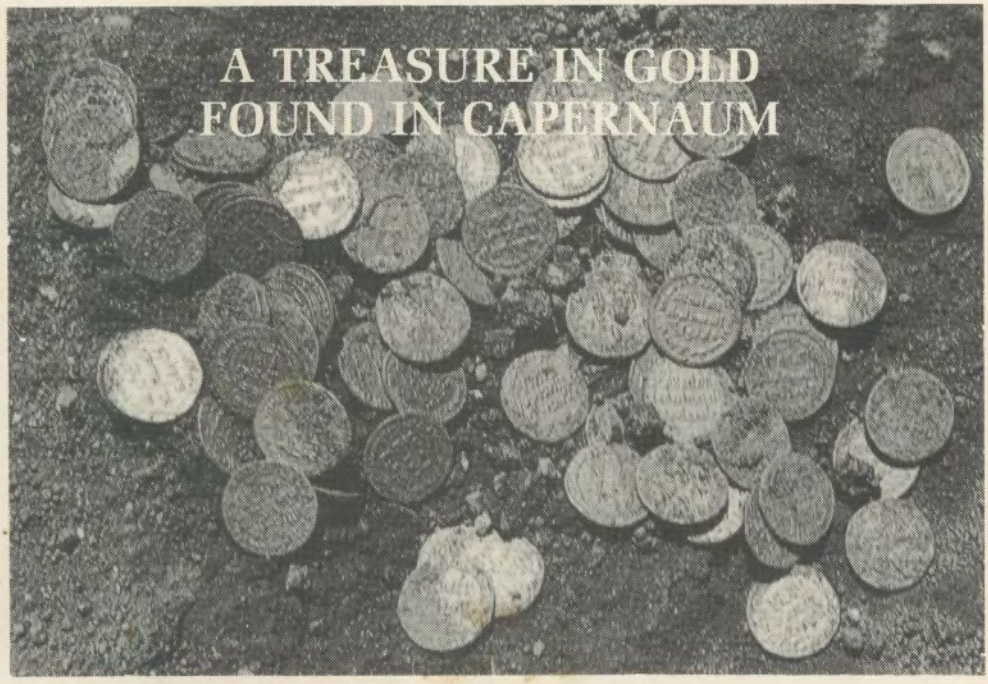
The shekel

Volume XVI, No. 6 Nov.-Dec. 1983



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The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaica Numismatica. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, *a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.*

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at $10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at $150.00. Junior membership (under 18) $2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

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George Gilbert, *Editor*

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Morris Bram

Dear Friends,

I was deeply moved by the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Reuven of Scottsdale, Arizona in connection with my recent visit to their lovely state. On October 13, we celebrated inauguration of the INS of Phoenix with 55 people at a reception.

At Temple Beth Israel on the following day, Samuel Abrams was elected President; Stephen Verges, Vice-President; Arlene Reuven, Secretary; and Richard Bronson, Treasurer. 38 people signed up for the new group, destined to be an outstanding club.

A week later, in New York City, your AINA Executive Board and I met with Shmuel Peled, Director of the *Currency Department* of *IGCAM, Jerusalem*. He was accompanied by Menachem Weiss, recently appointed head for IGCAM operations in North America. AINA was represented by myself, Stanley Yulish of Ohio; Julius Turoff and Moe Weinschel of New York, plus Board member J. J. Van Grover.

We were delighted to learn in advance of two new trade coin issues (described elsewhere in this issue). Hannuka trade coins plus a 10 shekalim Herzl coin were announced. The Hannuka commemorative will feature an 18th century Hanukia from Prague.

Also new from Israel: uncut banknotes. The first of these will be five Herzl notes. We suggested for their consideration a souvenir banknote for AINA conventions.

My congratulations to Alex Shagin of Los Angeles, winner of the AINA 1984 Membership Medal Award. My compliments to competition contributors Howard Ahl of Florida; Lawrence J. Gentile, Jr. of New York; Jacob Hennenberg of Ohio; James E. Linde of Virginia; Shirley H. Lichtman of California; Martin Morgenstern of New York; and Nat Sobel of New York.

I happily announce two major auction houses for the GFICC in January (see Back Cover). *Numismatic Investments of Florida* and *Paramount Numismatic Services*. See you there!

SHALOM,

Morris

Seder with the Rabbis, reputedly a bullet-damaged relic from the Great Temple of Berlin is a cast metal plaque, 12.5x7.5 inches. Collection of the Author.

A RELIC OF KRISTALLNACHT

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF A 20TH CENTURY POGROM

by Edward Baruch

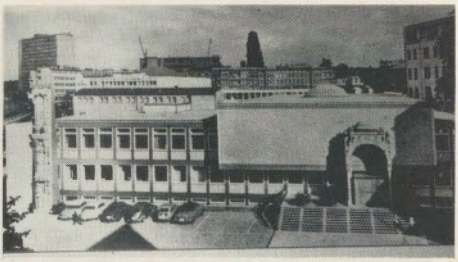
On November 10th, 1938, sounds of shattered glass reverberated in every city and hamlet of Germany, Austria and the Sudeten. History calls that night *Kristallnacht*—Crystal Night—and its name belied the ensuing horror that befell the Jewish population.

For the two days which followed, hordes of well organized strong-arm squads systematically hunted down and terrorized Jews in a scale unprecedented in modern times. This orgy of mayhem and destruction left the rest of the world passively looking on at that unbelievable horror.

Berlin's main synagogue at Fasanenstrasse, one of 80 in the city, was methodically looted with an incredible savagery, then torched. One of its Jewish congregants somehow managed to salvage a bronze plaque that for many years had been the pride of the Temple. Created at the turn of the century, it portrayed a Seder scene of Rabbis in high relief, following a famous painting by Moritz Oppenheimer (18—). The plaque had been pierced by stray bullets fired by the SS and Storm troops. Reputedly it eventually was spirited out of the country and it found safety in Jerusalem, where it was acquired by the writer. Others exist in the United States in private collections.

Detail of repair of the plaque.

Berlin's main synagogue where reputedly the plaque hung. Built in 1912; torched on Kristallnacht in 1938.



Berlin's present Jewish Community Center on the site of the synagogue. Cornerstone laid in 1957; completed in Nov. 1959, 21 years after Kristallnacht. Note the original synagogue doorway-arch integrated into the reconstruction (top of staircase, right.)

How did the tragedy occur?

To get a retrospective view of the anti-Semitic climate in Germany that led to *Kristallnacht,* let us go back to the year 1933. It was the year the Nazis came to power and when stringent anti-Semitic measures were first put into effect by the new regime. These oppressive measures were primarily taken to encourage Jews to emigrate; but only a small fraction opted to leave. In 1935 the infamous racial laws were passed.

Most Jews clung to their property and to whatever was left of their national pride. Doctors, lawyers, writers, intellectuals, World War I veterans—all had contributed their lifetimes to the Fatherland. How could they now flee? One group of Jews published an ad attesting to a primary loyalty to Germany. Surely things would change for the better.

This state of affairs steadily worsening, lasted for a few years. In March of 1938, a new law was passed. It stipulated that foreign Jews holding Polish passports, even if they had been living in Germany for more than five years, could not remain in the country unless they received a special visa from the Polish Consulate. Poland with its own 3.5 million Jews, refused their reentry. So the Nazis rounded up over 15,000 men, women and children, herded them onto railroad cars, and forcefully repatriated them across the Polish border.

Among those so brutally repatriated was the Grynszpan family. A week prior to *Kristallnacht,* Berta Gryszpan had sent a heart-breaking letter from Zbonszyn, Poland, to her 16-old brother, Herschel, living in Paris. She told Herschel of the family's plight and urgently requested financial help.

This letter had the effect of depressing young Herschel to the point of despair, then to fury.

On November 8th he went to the German Embassy on the Rue de Lille. Once inside he requested to see the Ambassador. Ernest vom Rath, the Embassy's Third Secretary, was the only official present. When he inquired what message the young man had, Grynszpan produced a gun and mortally wounded the Secretary. Grynszpan was immediately seized and arrested.

The killing of vom Rath was the *cause célébre* that the Nazis needed to launch a new diabolical uprooting of Germany's Jewry. Even though vom Rath had been but a minor official, he suddenly became the focal point of Nazi anti-Jewish activity. (At his funeral in Dusseldorf, in ad-

dition to Hitler, those in attendance included von Ribbentrop and most of Nazidom's upper echelon.)

The barbaric orgy of blood and glass-shattering ordeal that started on November 9, 1938, lasted for two days. It left the Jewish community completely devoid of its spiritual, cultural and benevolent centers. Jewish men, women and children were savagely beaten in the streets and in their shops. Countless thousands were arrested, sent to interrogation points and later on, to concentration camps. In fact, an all-out effort in all German cities involving the SS and SA, as well as the Gestapo, was necessary for the round up and arrest of more than 30,000 Jews.

To add insult to injury, the Jewish community was ordered to pay a fine of *one billion marks* for the "devastation that they brought on themselves."

300 Destroyed Synagogues

More than 300 synagogues were destroyed, together with 8000 shops. Jewish homes and property left standing were "legally" expropriated for a mere ten percent of their real market value. Nazi leaders in high position benefited most from this and other skull-duggery against defenseless victims. Laws were passed segregating Jews from Gentiles in public places, including cinemas, theatres, parks, beaches and public transportation.

Dachau, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen were three of the already existing camps where German Jews were interned. The horrors inflicted on them during the two day shattered-glass nightmare was only a start. The brutal follow-up at the camps took the lives of over 2000 men, women and children.

The "final solution" was still something looming in the future.

Leaders of the United States, England and France, asked to open their doors to allow immigration for the beleaguered Jews, resorted to semantics and dilatory tactics. All too soon, it was too late to do anything about their plight. The rest of the world, although symphathetic, followed the example of the large countries. The most fortunate had left Europe or were in neutral areas earlier.

As to young Herschel Grynszpan, he was eventually handed over to the Nazis by France's Vichy government. His trial in Germany never took place; his fate was never revealed. It is believed that he was either killed by the Gestapo or that he had somehow survived under an assumed new name.

HOW TO BURN 300 SYNAGOGUES AND 8000 SHOPS OVERNITE

Berlin No. 234 404 Nov. 9
To all Gestapo Stations and Gestapo District Stations

This teleprinter message is to be submitted without delay

At very short notice, *Aktionen* against Jews, especially against their synagogues, will take place throughout the whole of Germany. They are not to be hindered. In conjunction with the police, however, it is to be ensured that looting and other particular excesses can be prevented.

Gestapo II Mueller

SA of the NSDAP — Darmstadt, 10 Nov. 1938
To SA Group Kurpfalz, Mannheim

"On the order of the *Gruppenfuehrer*, all the Jewish synagogues within the 50th Brigade are to be blown up or set on fire immediately. Neighboring houses occupied by Aryans are not to be damaged. the *Aktion* is to be carried out in civilian clothes. Rioting and plundering are to be prevented. Report of execution of orders to reach *Brigadefuehrer* or station by 8.30."

Der Fuehrer der Brigade 50 (Starkenburg)

JEWS & JEWISH SUBJECTS ON COINS AND CURRENCY

By David Paszamant

(Continuing *"Jews & Jewish Subjects on Coins and Currency"* in THE SHEKEL, March-April 1983 and May-June 1982.)

One new coin, in particular, has been issued since the first list. The others had been issued earlier but were either newly reported or only recently noted.

A new coin was issued by the Netherlands Antilles in 1982. It is a 50 guilder coin commemorating the 250th anniversary of *Synagogue Mikve Israel Emanuel*. This coin, a large (38mm) sterling silver piece, depicts Queen Beatrix on one side and the *Synagogue on the other.*

Contrary to an article in the May 18, 1982 *World Coin News*, this is the only coin being issued. This was confirmed in a letter from the Bank of the Netherland Antilles (dated June 8, 1982) to the author. *Synagogue Mikve Israel Emanuel* is the oldest Jewish congregation in the Western Hemisphere. As a sidelight, the United States has issued a 1982 stamp honoring the Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I. Touro is the oldest synagogue in the United States.

From East Germany

Three more coins from East Germany have been located that depict Jewish subjects.

Heinrich Hertz, physicist

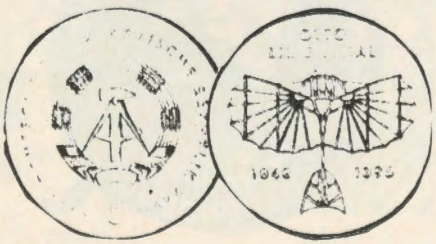
The first depicts the scientist Heinrich Hertz (1857-1894). This is a 5 mark 1961 coin catalogued as Y22.

When Heinrich Rudolf Hertz died in 1894, at the age of thirty-seven, his great teacher Helmholtz remarked: *"In classical times men would have regarded the untimely*

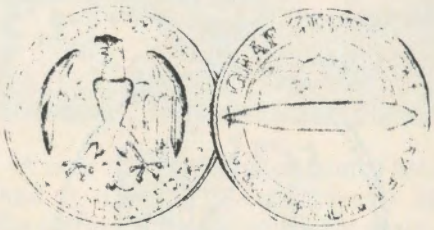
death of Hertz as due to the jealousy of the gods." He advanced the new science of electricity, contributing greatly to the developments begun by Faraday and Clerk-Maxwell, successfully demonstrating the presence of electro-magnetic waves of slow frequency. Today these are called Hertzian Waves. He found they could be reflected, refracted and polarized exactly like light waves, but that they were much longer. Wireless communication, radio and television stems from the discovery of these Hertzian waves.

The next coin I've chosen to include is also from East Germany, catalog number Y35, a 10 mark coin dated 1972. It commemorates the Buchenwald Memorial. While this subject is certainly not Jewish in and of itself, certainly the subject matter takes a place in Jewish history.

Another coin from East Germany is a 5 mark coin honoring Otto Lilienthal, a German Jewish pioneer inventor of the flying machine, from whose experiments the Wright brothers profited. Unfortunately, Lilienthal crashed to his death in 1896. This coin is catalogued as Y40 and is dated 1973.



Pictured below are two German coins: a three mark (Y69) and a five mark (Y70) dated 1929, both picturing the *Graf Zeppelin*. Actually, it should be called the *Graf Schwarz*.



The invention of the dirigible airship has been attributed to Count Zeppelin. Actually, it had been invented by an obscure Jewish inventor, David Schwarz. Schwarz patented his concept but he died before he could make his trial flight. Count Zeppelin bought the patents from Schwarz's widow. Today the contract is deposited in the archives of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

So . . . the *Graf Schwarz* (not Zeppelin). This coin is optional in a Judaic subject collection.

From Yemen

In 1975, Yemen issued two coins, one silver and one gold (15 Riyals and 100 Riyals, respectively). Each shows a scene of Arab Jerusalem with the Dome of the Rock in the background.

Paraguay and Einstein

According to my good friend, Harry Flower, whose article *"Recent World Coins of Judaic Interest,"* (July-August 1982, *The Shekel*), Paraguay issued four coins commemorating Albert Einstein. A pure silver coin of 150 guaranies and 3 gold coins: a 1500, a 3000 and 4500 guaranies. For information relative to Einstein, see my previous article.

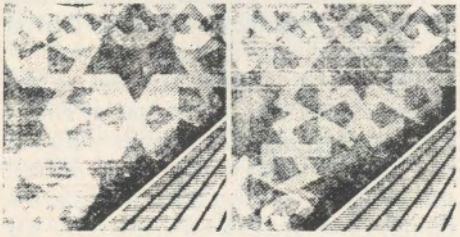
Dominica and Camp David

Again, according to Mr. Flower, Dominica issued three coins depicting Begin, Sadat, & Carter in commemoration of the Camp David Accords. There was one sterling silver $20 coin issued in both BU and Proof and two gold coins: a $150 and a $300, both in BU & Proof. So, technically, we have six coins from Dominica.

In 1980, Iran issued a 1 Riyal coin that depicted the Dome of the Rock located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Jordan issued a ½-Dinar coin in 1980 also depicting the Dome of the Rock.

Several pieces of paper money are worthy of comment. The first comes from Iran; it created quite a furor on issuance. The face of the note pictures the Shah. The reverse is a series of geometric designs that appear to be Stars of David. The din created by this note forced redesign of the reverse; additional points were added between the original six points of the star.



Before 1 *After*

A note that I believe is from Thailand is illustrated. Look closely at the star on the cap; you will, again, see a six-pointed star.

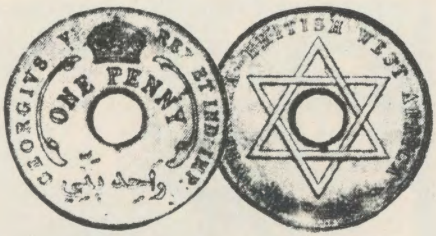
This is not to say that such notes pay homage in any way to the Jewish people. But, the Iranian note certainly created quite a ruckus. It was thought by some that the note was created to pay honor to Israel instead of just bearing a non-political geometric design.

Idi Amin—Israeli Paratrooper?

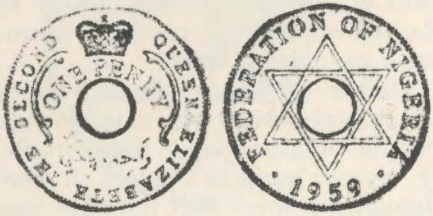
Idi Amin is pictured on a banknote of Uganda. On his left breast is a set of paratroop wings. Supposedly, he had been trained by Israel and was awarded Israeli paratrooper wings. He was apparently proud of those wings and it is quite conceivable that those wings are Israeli.

British West Africa

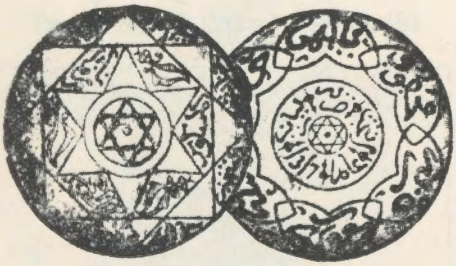
Starting in 1907 and up through about 1958, British West Africa issued a number of coins (approximately 24 types) with a six-pointed star on one side. I seriously doubt if



this had anything to do with the Jewish people. Reader comments are invited.



In 1959, Nigeria also issued two coins with six-pointed stars very prominently displayed.



Morocco was also very prolific in issuing coins with six-pointed stars on them.

U.S. $1.00 Bill and Chaim Solomon

On the reverse of a United States $1 note, above the head of the eagle, in the Great Seal of the U.S., is a group of five-pointed stars arranged into a large six-pointed star. One legend relating to this design arrangement is a *Mogen David*, specifically requested by George Washington as a means of honoring Chaim Solomon, the Jewish financier of the American Revolution. I don't know if this is true or not, but I pass it along for whatever it may be worth.

In my earlier article, I had mentioned an East German 20 mark coin struck for Gotthold Ephriam Lessing which depicted a scene from *Nathan the Weise*. Both Fred Ross and Harry Flower, subsequently pointed out to me that Lessing was *not* a Jew. This I know, but the character depicted on the coin *was* Jewish and, as noted in the article, Lessing was the first to present the Jew on the German stage in an objective manner. Since the subject matter of the coin is Jewish, I feel it belongs in my collection.

A coin and some biographical data on Giorgi Dimitrov was contributed by *Shekel* editor, George Gilbert.

Dimitrov is commemorated on the 20-leva gold coin of Bulgaria. Dimitrov was a Bulgarian printer who led the union movement as a youth, gradually becoming a radical, then a communist. He is best known for his fiery defense during the Nazi trial

Country	Cat. No.	Year	Subject	Denomination	Mintage
East Germany	Y22	1961	Heinrich Hertz	5 Marks	10,000
East Germany	Y35	1972	Buchenwald Memorial	10 Marks	50,000
East Germany	Y40	1973	Otto Lilienthal	5 Marks	10,000
Yemen	KM17ws	1975	Jerusalem	15 Riyals	5,000
Yemen	KM22	1975	Jerusalem	100 Riyals	3,500
Iran	—	1980	Jerusalem	1 Riyal	?
Jordan	KM5	1969	Bethlehem	¾Dinar	5,800
Jordan	KM6	1969	Jerusalem	1 Dinar	6,800
Jordan	Y32	1980	Jerusalem	½ Dinar	?
Netherland Antilles	—	1982	Synagogue Mikve Israel Emanuel	50 Guilder	10,000
Paraguay	KM80	1974	Einstein	150 Guaranies (Silver)	10,000
Paraguay	KM93	1974	Einstein	1500 Guaranies (Gold)	1,500
Paraguay	KM105	1974	Einstein	3000 Guaranies (Gold)	1,500
Paraguay	KM115	1974	Einstein	4500 Guaranies (Gold)	1,500
Dominica	—	1979	Begin, Sadat & Carter	$20 (BU Silver)	?
Dominica	—	1979	Begin, Sadat & Carter	$20 (Proof Silver)	?
Dominica	—	1979	Begin, Sadat & Carter	$150 (BU Gold)	?
Dominica	—	1979	Begin, Sadat & Carter	$300 (BU Gold)	?
Dominica	—	1979	Begin, Sadat & Carter	$300 (Proof Gold)	?

seeking to frame him for the 1933 Reichstag fire (the Nazis burned down the Parliament, then tried to blame it on the Communists.) The court refused to find him guilty.

He survived; left for Russia, ultimately to become the head (Secretary-General) of the Communist International (Comintern) before he was elected to premier of Bulgaria.

His first wife died in 1933, following his arrest for the faked fire. He remarried in November 1934, to a Jewish woman, Rosa Julevna Fleishmanova.

Dimitrov's relationship to Judaism is solely based on the fact that his second wife was Jewish.

I don't feel that this coin belongs in my collection.

Please note the following corrections to my earlier article: The coin I have listed as *Jordan H6* should be *KM6*. The denomination is 1 dinar and the coin has a mintage of 6,800.

Another coin of Jordan has been called to my attention. This is a ¾ dinar silver coin dated 1969; it depicts the Shrine of the Nativity located in Bethlehem.

Jordan also issued a ½ dinar silver coin dated 1969 that pictures the Al Harraneh Palace. I have no idea where this palace is located. Can anyone help?

My thanks to Fred Ross and Harry Flower for their comments and a special thanks to George Gilbert for his help with some research and aid in illuminating some of my prose.

This listing is incomplete; everyone is invited to make comments or to direct mild criticism to the author at: P.O. Box 215, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.

(Conclusion in next issue)

Achille Levy waited on customers at the teller's window of the Bank of A. Levy, Oxnard, Calif.

Jews Part of American Banking History

By Mel Wacks NLG

Director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, Magnes Museum, Berkeley, Calif.

The general field of commercial banking in the United States has remained relatively closed to Jewish participation. A study made in 1939 revealed that out of 93,000 bankers in the United States only 0.6 percent were Jewish, and that even in New York City Jews formed only 6 percent of banking executives as compared to 28 percent of the general population. Similar statistics for a later period are unavailable, but reports of discrimination against Jews in major banks throughout the country persist. However, there have been some notable exceptions over the years.

Crown-Zellerbach is now one of America's leading paper firms, but its beginnings were modest. According to family recollections, while the brothers Marks and Anthony Zellerbach operated a bank in Moore's Flat, Calif., Marks traveled to Europe and his brother squandered the bank's assets. Anthony ar-

rived penniless in San Francisco in 1868 and started to trade odd lots of paper and began importing stationery. Zellerbach's company merged in 1928 with the Crown Paper Co. which had been founded by another Jewish "Forty-Niner," Aaron Fleishhacker.

The sons of Aaron Fleishhacker entered the banking business. From June 1908 Herbert Fleishhacker ran the London Paris National Bank of San Francisco, charter number 9174. On March 17, 1909, it became the Anglo & London Paris National Bank of San Francisco. In the latter organization Herbert was the first vice president and general manager and, from 1911, president.

He also headed the Anglo-California Trust Co. of San Francisco in 1909 but was succeeded in this position by his brother, Mortimer. Ignatz Steinhart was co-manager of the Anglo California Bank Ltd., one of the banks that later became the Anglo and London Paris National Bank of San Francisco.

Today's San Franciscans and other tourists can enjoy the Fleishhacker Zoo and the Steinhart Aquarium, thanks to the philanthropy of these Jewish-American pioneering families.

According to Robert Friedberg, author of *Paper Money of the United States*, there were 14,348 banks chartered during the note-issuing period 1863-1935.

Large-sized notes from the London Paris National Bank exists, and large-sized notes from the Anglo & London Paris National Bank are rather common.

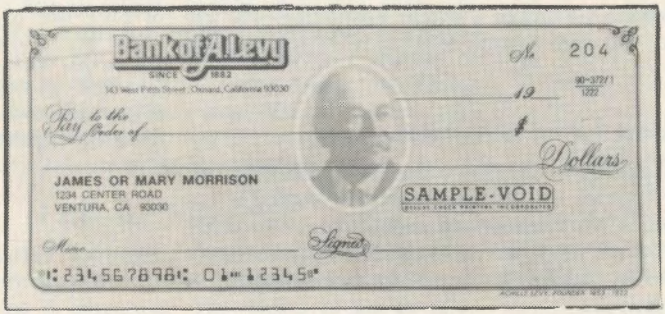
Small-size notes, with the latter title and with the Anglo California National Bank title are common and available for less than $40 in About Uncirculated condition.

Anthony Zellerbach's Moore's Flat, Calif., business in wholesale paper turned into one of the leading corporations in America, Crown-Zellerbach.

The Bank of A. Levy

The California financial institution with the rather unlikely name of the Bank of A. Levy recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, 1882-1982. Billboards still proclaim that the Bank of A. Levy is "the bank that lima beans built!"

Achilles Levy describes these beginnings in Hueneme, Ventura County, when he was only 29 years old: "As a commodoties broker, my job was to pay farmers fair market value for their crops and get those crops to markets where they would be sold. At the same time, I retained certain lots of beans which I sold as seed to the farmers in the area. Now, in handling those financial transactions, I became more than a broker. I was a banker, to



Founder Achille Levy appears on a vignette available on checks of the Bank of A. Levy, Oxnard, Calif.

boot. You see, the farmers I dealt with asked me to hold on to the proceeds from the sale of their crops for safekeeping. I guess it was because they trusted me, or maybe because I had the only safe in town at that time."

There were many pieces of scripophily issued in the early days of the bank: "To help my customers make purchases or pay bills, I offered them what you might call an early-day version of a checking account. Say a rancher owed the blacksmith $25. He simply wrote the order to pay on a piece of paper, signed it and the blacksmith brought it to me for cash."

In 1902, the Bank of A. Levy constructed a new brick building in Oxnard, and three years later was chartered by the State of California. . .ending the years of uncontrolled "wildcat banking." The bank has remained a family enterprise, with Achilles' son, Joe, taking over upon his dad's death in 1922. A modern building opened in Oxnard in 1927 where it still stands today.

During the Depression years, when so many banks failed, the Bank of A. Levy survived. Joe resolved that his bank would never foreclose on anyone . . . and he kept his word. When people couldn't qualify for a bank loan, Joe and the Levy family loaned them their personal funds. When Joe passed away in 1955, his nephew Arthur Achille Milligan became president and started expanding the one-office hometown bank, so that there are now over 20 branches. Today, Arthur's sons, Marshall and Mike, are the fourth generation of the family to operate the Bank of A. Levy.

Emperor Norton

Born in England in 1819, Joshua A. Norton arrived in San Francisco shortly after the discovery of gold in California. He came by way of Africa, with capital of about $40,000. Norton built up a substantial business in real estate and general brokerage, parlaying his assets to a quarter of a million dollars by 1853. Because of his outspoken admiration for European royalty, Norton's friends jokingly called him "The Emperor."

Norton's fortunes soon took a dramatic turn for the worse when he and his associates failed in an attempt to corner the rice market. He lost everything and dropped out of sight. Emerging from seclusion in 1859 in a weakened state of mind, the title formerly used in jest by his friends, and then used in a well meaning effort to raise his spirits, gradually became reality to him. He proclaimed himself "Norton I, Emperor of the United States and the Protector of Mexico," and became a familiar sight parading around the city in a shabby epauletted blue uniform and military cap, with a small ceremonial sword dangling at his side.

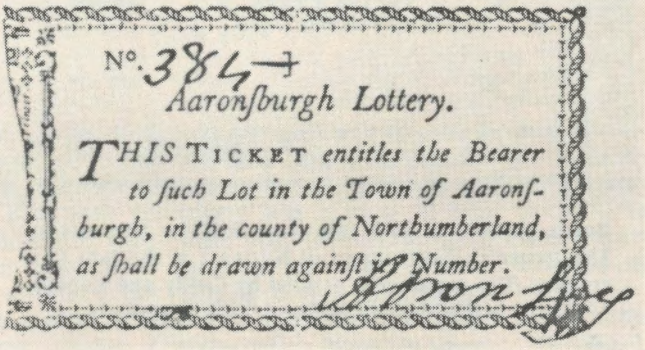
English-born Joshua A. Norton, brought to California by the lure of gold, lost a fortune in real estate and rice, supporting himself in his last days selling 50-cent bonds. When he died in 1880, 30,000 San Franciscans attended his funeral.

Aaron Levy's Aaronsburg

Aaron Levy is believed to have been born in Holland in 1742. He emigrated to America in 1760, and eventually settled in the Pennsylvania town of Northumberland about 1770. In the early days of the Revolution, Levy served in the Pennsylvania State Militia and helped to finance the War of Independence by investing in Treasury loans.

In June 1779, Levy purchased 334.5 acres of land 30 miles west of his home. It had access to navigable waters, timber and

fertile soil, and he thought that it could be developed into an important city. He named it Aaronsburg, and in a broadside dated May 23, 1786, it was announced that the land (612 parcels) would be sold by lottery. Tickets were issued, signed by Levy,



In 1786, Aaron Levy sold tickets which were drawn for 612 parcels of land in a Pennsylvania community to be known as "Aaronsburgh."

entitling the lucky "bearer to such lot in the Town of Aaronsburgh, in the county of Northumberland, as shall be drawn against it."

It is worthy of note that Levy set aside several sites for future schools and houses of worship "of every denomination." On Oct. 23, 1949, approximately 30,000 people converged on Aaronsburg to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Salem Lutheran Church, which stands on the grounds that the philanthropic Aaron Levy had donated.

Signers of Notes

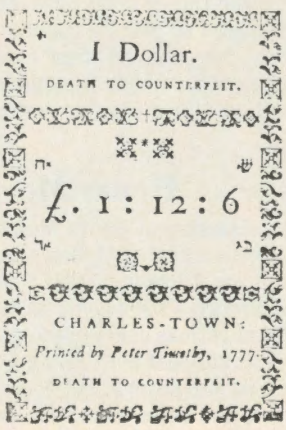
Both Benjamin Levy and Benjamin Jacobs personally signed notes authorized by the United Colonies in 1776 and 1777. These are most desirable collector's pieces and are available from time to time, generally at major auction sales.

A short time later, in 1777, Hebrew letters were used on paper money printed by Peter Timothy in Charles-Town, S. C. Random Greek letters were also used in an attempt to make counterfeiting more difficult.

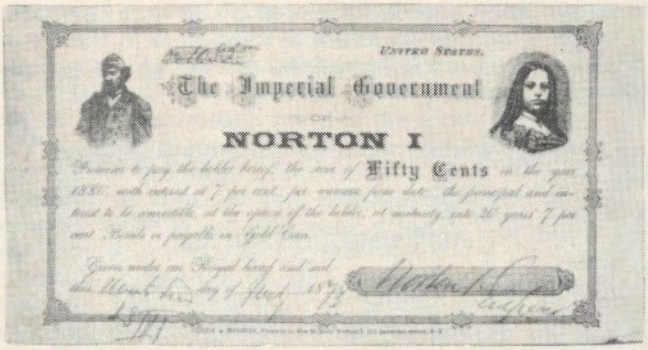
Hebrew type-faces were no stranger to the Colonies. The first book printed here was an English version of Psalms, published in Cambridge in 1640; it utilized the Hebrew alphabet to accompany Psalm 119. However, since the first Hebrew printing of sorts did not begin in Charles-Town (later called Charleston) until 1842, Peter Timothy may have imported his Hebrew typefaces from Cambridge, Andover, Boston, New Haven or Philadelphia where early Hebrew books had been printed.

Luis de Torres

Earlier it was stated that besides Emperor Norton's self-styled scrip, "virtually the only other Jewish-American featured on paper money is Judah P. Benjamin." The reason for the modifier "virtually" is that one other sort-of-Jew, sort-of-American is sort of depicted on a United States note. His name is Luis de Torres;



Hebrew characters appear on a dollar printed in Charles-Town, S.C., in 1777.



Bonds payable in gold coin were sold for 50 cents by The Imperial Government of Norton I in the late 19th century. The notes were printed by Cuddy and Hughes, "Printers to His Majesty Norton I," San Francisco.

he accompanied Christopher Columbus on his first voyage to the New World in 1492 as official interpreter, since this learned man knew Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, Latin and Greek.

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella expelled all Jews from Spain on Aug. 2, 1492, and the next day Columbus sailed. There were several men of Jewish stock as part of the crew which numbered about 120. Luis de Torres had previously held a government post, and had been baptized just shortly before Columbus departed. Actually most such converts were not true believers in their new religion.

They were called Marranos (an insulting name that may have meant "pigs" or "deceivers" in Spanish slang), and many secretly tried to observe as much as they could of the Jewish law in the hope of some day returning to their original faith.

After the voyage, Torres won the favor of the ruler (cacique) of Cuba and settled there, the first European to do so. He received from the cacique lands and slaves. And the king and queen of Spain granted Torres a yearly allowance of 8,645 maravedis. And thus, he set up his own little empire, becoming an independent ruler of Spanish territory!

Luis de Torres must have been close by to Columbus when they landed so that he could attempt to communicate with the natives. And thus he must be among the men depicted in the Landing of Columbus vignette on the reverse of the $5 National Bank Notes, First Charter Period, Friedberg No. 394-408.

Henry Morgenthau Jr.

The signature of Henry Morgenthau Jr., 1891-1967, is familiar to collectors of United States paper money. He served as Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin Roosevelt from 1934 through FDR's death in 1945, and Morgenthau's name appears on various denominations of legal tender notes, silver certificates, national bank notes, Federal Reserve notes, the emergency Hawaii surcharged notes issued after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and notes issued for use with the armed forces in Europe and North Africa. Also, Henry Morgenthau Jr.'s portrait appears on an official United States Mint medal honoring him as Secretary of the Treasury.

CAPERNAUM DIG IN ISRAEL YIELDS 282 FIRST CENTURY COINS

by Herold Weiss

I had not come in search of gold. I was an academician, seeking only to understand. Until 1980, I had been an armchair archaeologist. Then I accepted an invitation to become associate director of the volunteer program of a dig at Capernaum. That summer, I worked in a residential quarter of the city about 200 feet east of Capernaum's famous ancient synagogue and northeast of the equally famous octagon church built over what may have been St. Peter's house.

The house I was excavating had been built in the late Byzantine period. Our first discovery was a maze of thin walls held together by mud, built in the ninth century. Digging deeper, we reached the solid walls of the square sixth-century Byzantine house. It was large and commodious, over 40 feet on a side. In later periods (in the eighth century), it had been subdivided into smaller living units, but its occupants in early Arab times still enjoyed the comforts of the original Byzantine structure. It was built of the large black basalt stones plentiful in the Galilee, bonded with good mortar, so that it had survived several occupational periods indicated by changes in the traffic flow within the house and the different floor levels.

In 1982, I returned to this house for a second season of work. During the first week, I helped uncover the beautiful pavement of the house's inner court, which served as a vestibule between the street and the private rooms of the house. The pavement had been laid in

Coins, 282 gold dinars, were found in the house excavated at Capernaum, as gleaming bright as the day they were struck. To paraphrase The Shadow, "Who knows, what gleaming gold coins lurk under these stones?"

An arrow points to the site of the 282 gold coins found under the pavement of the courtyard of the late Byzantine dwelling near the Sea of Galilee.

the late Byzantine period but had been used in the Omayyad period as well (650-749 A.D.).

By Tuesday of the second week of excavations we were ready to lift the pavement and dig deeper. I anticipated the prospects of finally leaving behind the Arabic levels of occupation and entering the Byzantine house through its front door.

Removing those heavy basalt building blocks from ancient Capernaum requires considerable physical strength and stamina. The stones have to be loosened with a heavy pick. The larger stones then have to be rolled onto a heavy canvas mat so that two persons can lift and remove them. Our removal team included Jacki Stone, a housewife from Australia, and Stan Bomgarden, a graduate student at the University of Iowa.

Jacki had come to Israel to visit relatives. In Jerusalem she met the director of our dig, Dr. Vassilios Tzaferis of the Israel Department of Antiquities. When she expressed a desire to join an archaeological dig, he invited her to come to Capernaum to help us.

After Stan and I lifted each heavy stone onto the mat, Jacki would clean up so that we could all see what we were doing.

It was a few minutes to noon, quitting time, on June 1, 1982, and I announced that the next stone would be the last for that morning. Then we would clean up the area and pick up our tools.

That last stone was a big one. As Stan and I were lifting it, Jacki gave a small shout. I had heard her make that sound before. It was a gasp that meant something was underneath the stone. When I turned to look, I saw what appeared to be five or six gold coins lying on the earth. As Jacki gently lifted the loosened soil, more gold

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Uruguayan-born Herold Weiss came to the United States in the 1950s. In 1964 he received a doctoral degree in Biblical Studies at Duke University and became actively interested in archaeology.

He is a professor of religious studies at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind. In 1980 he served as assistant director of a dig at Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.

His story appeared in the July/August 1983 issue of "Biblical Archaeology Review," reproduced here by permission.

As author Herold Weiss lifted the last stone for the day in an excavation of a house in Capernaum, gold coins gleamed, buried under the stone for some 1,240 years.

coins appeared before our eyes. We resisted the temptation to pick them up and examine them in our hands. We knew the rules: "Don't dig around what you find in order to pick it up. Dig the stratigraphical layers in their own context."

Our shouts however grew louder, and soon other volunteers crowded around to see what we had found. Tzaferis also came running over. Ever the professional, he immediately took charge, but he was barely able to contain his own excitement. When the last coin was finally removed, we had excavated 282 gold dinars.

The next day, after we had completed our field work and washed the pottery, Tzaferis brought us some of the gold coins to examine. He spread them over sheets of our field working plans, under the shade of a eucalyptus tree by the Sea of Galilee. They looked as if they had come out of the Damascus Mint the day before. They could have been gold medals just polished for ceremonial awards. Nobody could have guessed that they had been buried loose in the soil since about 743.

The next day a specialist from the Department of Antiquities visited Capernaum to look at the coins and dated them to 695-743, confirming Tzaferis's dating of the previous day. He also told us that we had uncovered the largest hoard of gold coins ever found in Israel!

Arab coins minted after the numismatic reform of Abd al-Malik in 695, 77 A.H., do not have human effigies, in strict conformity with Moslem religious law barring such representation. Both sides of each dinar were filled with Moslem religious affirmations from the Koran.

On the obverse they read: "There is no god except Allah alone. He has no partner. Muhammad is the apostle of Allah whom he sent with guidance and the revelation of truth that he may make it victorious over every other religion" (Koran 9:33).

The reverse proclaims: "Allah is one, Allah is the eternal. He begets not, neither is he begotten" (Koran 112:1-3).

These affirmations are victorious, polemical declarations in opposition to Jewish and Christian religious beliefs. The second quotation is a specific denial of the orthodox Chris-

tian definition of the relationship between the Father and the Son.

My imagination was filled with speculations about the man who, sometime about 743, buried these 282 gold dinars under a stone in the inner court of his house.

Why hadn't he placed them in some container?

Had he buried them in a hurry?

Why were they loose in the ground?

What had prevented him from returning to retrieve this treasure?

Had he died suddenly, violently?

Why hadn't he shared his secret with any other member of his household?

Was this hoard the result of years of conscientious saving or the benefit of corruption in service to the Caliph who spent winters at his palace just a few miles to the south?

Were they won by violence, in war — or robbery?

If the coins could sing their story like a chorus, what would they tell?

My questions may never be answered with certainty. Even tentative answers will have to await a careful examination of all the evidence brought to light in the excavation.

Before our mysterious Omayyad householder lived here, the house had been occupied by Christians. We discovered a ringstone with the Constantinian monogram and lamps with Greek crosses, suggesting the religion of the earlier occupants of the house. We also discovered a little cosmetic spoon used by the lady of the house to mix and apply her facial make-up. The Byzantine Christian residents were probably upper-middle class. But who were the early Arab inhabitants, one of whom left behind his treasure after burying it under the stone pavement of the house's inner court? And what of those who lived in the house after him? The archaeological evidence suggests that these later occupants were quite poor. One cannot help but think how often these later occupants crisscrossed their way over the pavement of the inner court, unaware that they were just a stone away from golden treasure.

The Omayyad gold dinar dating from 77 A.H., 695, was struck by Abd al-Malik.

The Persian invasion of Palestine 614, was followed by the Arab invasions in 640. Surely these invasions disrupted life at Capernaum. But with the establishment of the Omayyad Dynasty, 650-749, trade in the Near East flourished. The gold of Russia and the Sudan flowed freely to Damascus. Soon the Arab gold dinar became the standard for all commerce, replacing both the Byzantine solidus aureos and the Persian drachma.

The Omayyad period was one of extraordinary economic prosperity, in which Capernaum no doubt shared, partly because of its privileged position on the ancient King's Highway that linked Damascus with Akko and Caesarea on the Sea. Just a few kilometers south of Capernaum, the Caliph built his winter palace at Khirbet Minyeh. Other evidence of the wealth of the Omayyads may still be seen at the magnificent palace of Hisham near Jericho and, of course, at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

To appreciate the value of the gold hoard we discovered, consider that the annual salary of an Omayyad soldier was about one dinar. It would take him 282 years to earn our hoard.

How were these kinds of fortunes accumulated in those heady days of Omayyad prosperity?

There are records telling us that under the rule of Harun al-Rashid (786-809) the budget of Baghdad was 1,500,000,000 dinars, which would weigh 750,000 kilos (1,650,000 pounds). When the merchants of the al-Karh quarter of Baghdad suffered heavy losses in a fire, the Caliph al-Watiq (842-847) gave them 500,000 dinars to help them rebuild.

Continued on page 30

The Shekel readers may subscribe to "Biblical Archaeology Review" at the special introductory rate of $12.95 ($8.05 less than the regular rate). Subscription orders should be sent to Biblical Archaeology Review, 3111 Rittenhouse St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

A MOUNTAIN FORTRESS ON A COIN:

HERODIUM

by George Gilbert

Herodion (near Bethlehem).

Israel's new Herodion coin.

Visitors in the bowl atop the fortress mountain.

Tourists to Israel as to any other new country and culture will be specially intrigued with the newest of Israel's coinage. While most coins of the world feature personalities and sometimes a historic points (note that the *U.S. Jefferson nickel* has both the personality and the place,

Monticello), the new Israeli coinage shares a single historic site little known to most Americans.

The site honored on the new ½, 1 and 5 sheqel 1983 trade coins of Israel share a common reverse: the mountain-top fortress and burial site of Herod (72BC - 4 CE). Herodium, today's *Herodion*.

Herod, a Jew of Edomite origin, reigned as king of Israel, under Roman patronage, for 33 years (from 37 BCE to 4 BCE).

The trouble is—there were TWO Herodiums. The coin site Herodium is eight miles south of Jerusalem on the Masada side (west) of the Dead Sea, now Israel's and Herod's most famous hilltop fortress. Masada and a number of other castles commanding heights were garrison points, in part as protectors of Jerusalem to the north.

The protection from the East included the second Herodium and a second castle, Machaerus (Mkaur). These stood atop mountains to the east of the Dead Sea and further

north than Jericho. Machaerus had been a fortress of Alexander Jannaeus, ruler of the provinces in the years 103-76BC. Herod, the builder, enlarged the fortress and made it the strongest of all the castles after Jerusalem itself.

Salome by A. Beardsley. John the Baptist was executed at Herodium East.

This eastern Herodium was the site of one of history's memorable gruesome moments. Here was imprisoned John the Baptist, whose head was secured in payment for a night of dance by Salome for her revengeful mother. The actual dungeon prison is thought to be a large vaulted chamber in the hollowed-out rock face beneath the summit which may still be seen today.

Herodium to the West

The Herodium to the west of the Dead Sea was larger and has its own historical romance. This was the castle retreat for Herod and family in 40 BC when he was escaping from the Parthians (today's Syrians). In a battle against Mattathias Antigonus, the last Maccabean king, considered to be the most vital of his life, Herod repelled a ferocious attack by hostile Jewish forces. That battle and its central figures has its own numismatic lore.

Herod's attachment to this site was evidently emotional since he selected it as his burial place, preferring it over the family mausoleum long based in Jerusalem.

1983 Israel trade coins share Herodion on obverse.

Like Hyrcania a few miles away, this castle could scarcely be designed to repel an attack from an *external* enemy which would find little military advantage in conquering an isolated desert castle to the south of the capital. Herodium was a regional headquarters for a garrison intended to keep the population of Jerusalem and environs cowed and quiet. It served as a prison for troublemakers or conspirators.

Unique in Israel for its size and lavishness, it was the third largest palace ever to be built in the entire Roman world.

Today its sinister cone can be seen from the tourist road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, its immense size dominating the view towards the south. Before Herod there were *two* such cones, breasts rising from the desert. Herod's engineers truncated the eastern summit and heightening and strengthening the western-most mound to build Herodium.

At the top: a 90-foot high (10 stories by today's building standards) round fortress with four round towers, one higher than the other three. The corridor to gain entry into these towers ran around the circumference as in many modern residential buildings today. Inside the towers: apartments and baths, as in apartment houses today.

A great stone stairway started at a point where there was some kind of settlement (guard houses? quarters for farmers or laborers?) and a pool, 135-feet by 210-feet. It is believed that water was so abundant at this desert point that a park surrounded all. An aqueduct, fragments of which have survived, brought water from a spring near Bethlehem. It is not clear if this aqueduct served the pool. Occasional rain water was collected in cisterns beneath the citadel.

The slopes of the mountainside were steep. The height of the castle top was such that from there fires or mirrors could be used to signal relay stations or other castles.

During the First Revolt, 66-73 CE, it was retaken from the Romans. Sixty years later it was taken again by the followers of Bar Kokhba in the Second Revolt, 132-135 CE.

The final inhabitants were monks and farmers during the 5th to 7th centuries, then abandoned.

The first of the coin sets honoring historic landmarks in Israel featured the Qumram set, similarly sized gold and silver coins in the same denominations.

The Qumram Caves became known to the entire world because of the dramatic find of the Dead Sea scrolls there. Herodium may become better known through the issue of these new 1983 trade coins.

Bibliography

Herod the Great by Michael Grant, American Heritage Press, New York, 1971.

GREATER NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CONVENTION SEPT. 29 TO OCT. 2, 1983

Enthusiastic participation of New York, Long Island and numismatists from nearby states at the Greater New York Numismatic Convention swelled participation at a number of educational activities. The convention opened on Thursday, September 29th with over 98 dealers participating in an active bourse of American, foreign, ancient and Israeli specialists.

Larry Gentile led almost three dozen Young Numismatists in a separate one-day program. Gentile has developed unique tools in advancing young numismatists with exhibits, spelling bees, discussions, visits to the Bourse and prize awards.

A judging of entries for the AINA 1984 Membership Medal design reviewed 24 outstanding designs. AINA members and executives of the AINA Board, except Nat Sobel, an entrant, served as judges. After deliberation and study, the winning entry by Alex Shagin was chosen. Other entrants were Howard Ahl; Larry Gentile, Sr.; Jacob Hennenberg; Shirley Lichtman; James E. Linde; Martin Morgenstern; and Nat Sobel.

On Saturday Oct. 1, the Educational Forum moderated by Edward Janis, heard a talk by Philip Sperber on "History of Israel Through Ancient Coins". This was followed by Fred Jacobs' presentation on Ancient Roman coins, "I, Claudius."

At a cocktail party and banquet, Nahum Hacohen, outgoing Director for North American Operations of The Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp. was honored by AINA, with the presentation of a leather attache case. Menachem Weiss, the new director, was briefly introduced to the dinner audience.

An auction by Joseph Lepczyk of E. Lansing, Michigan, offered four sessions featuring 1856 lots. A very large mail response, plus many last-minute telephone bids created extensive competition and excitement on the floor. On Sunday, October 2, an auction by Johnson & Jensen featuring 998 medallic lots was well received.

Educational Forum speakers Philip Sperber (l.) and Fred Jacobs (r.). Center: Moderator Ed Janis.

Nahum Hacohen (l.) is honored by Morris Bram on his retirement from the IGCAM.

SHAGIN DESIGN SCORES WITH JUDGES FOR 1984 AINA MEMBERSHIP MEDAL

Selecting design for 1983 Membership Medal, l. to r.: Morris Bram, J. J. Van Grover, Sylvia Haffner Magnus, Ed Janis, Moe Weinschel and Julius Turoff.

EXHIBITION AWARDS

Best of Show: George Beach, *King Edward VIII*

Medals
1st place: Alan Weinberg, *Raoul Wallenberg*
2nd place: Shirley Garfield, *Masada and Entebbe*

Tokens
1st place: George Cuhaj, *Transport Passes and Tokens*

Ancients
1st place: Larry Gentile, Sr., *Constantine*

Israel
1st place: Jack Garfield, *Medals of Israel*
2nd place: Selig Levine, *Judaic Medals*

Special Awards
Barbara Druck, *Admiral Dewey*
Julius Turoff, *Monitor and Merrimac*

Young Numismatist: Tanya Smith, *U.S. Paper Money Districts*

Moe Weinschel, General Chairman, thanked all exhibit participants. He recognized the Convention Staff for their efforts in creating a smoothly functioning convention.

REGISTRATION: Shirley Kaplan, Faye Stern, Sid Greenfield, Florence Turoff, Ada Weinschel.

EXHIBITS: Michael Druck, Barbara Druck.

BOURSE: Jack Garfield, Moe Weinschel.

RECEPTION & BANQUET: Nat Sobel.

EDUCATIONAL FORUM: Ed Janis, Moderator

AWARDS: Nat Sobel, Julius Turoff, Steven Weiner, Michael Druck.

SIGNS: Julius Turoff.

POSTAGE EXHIBIT & AINA BOOTH: Rose Kantor, Julius Kantor.

SECURITY: Jack Garfield, Moe Weinschel.

PHOTOGRAPHY: George Gilbert.

JEWISH TOKENS OF EARLY SETTLERS OF AUSTRALIA

By Eli Semmelman, Haifa

A number of Jews were among the first settlers of Australia, the first known Jew being Joel Joseph who arrived in 1789. By 1817 the Jewish colony, settled where Sydney is centered today, had grown to the point where it needed a *Chevrah Kadisha* (a burial society).

In 1828, the London Jewish court *(Beth Din)* sent Rabbi Aharon Levy to Tasmania to preside over a divorce. In that period, Tasmania, an island south of Australia, had been settled by criminal elements from the British Empire. Levy lived briefly in Sydney, arranging for the first Australian congregation in 1833 and for the first synagogue which opened in 1844, the first synagogue in that part of the world.

The first settlers had been adventurers and social outcasts; the emergence of a new Australia attracted a more cultural and dignified settler. The new synagogue was destined to serve the Jews in this new group.

The Jewish community organized itself to serve its members and to sponsor a welfare program. Among their members were merchants and traders who, like their contemporaries issued tokens now actively sought by collectors. Among the most interesting of these is the Josephs penny, dated 1855.

Reuben Josephs, originally from England, was sent to Australia as a convict to serve a 14-year sentence. For unknown reasons, shortly after his arrival, his sentence was commuted and he settled in Tasmania.

Life wasn't easy for anyone at this outpost of civilization. Opportunities there made it possible for Josephs to soon become wealthy but not before he once again had dealings which led to legal entanglements. The matter was resolved before Josephs was tried in a court. It is known that he married a prominent Jewish lady.

1. Sydney; 2. Hobart, Tasmania; 3. Auckland; 4. Wellington; 5. Dunedin .

"Little anti-Semitism, official or unofficial, has been in evidence at any time and this had made it possible for Jews to take an active part in the life of the country", writes Nathan Ausubel in *The Pictorial History of the Jewish People*. As early as 1828, it was a Jewish theatrical director, Barnet Levy who brought over to Australia from London the first company of actors. They founded the first theatre in Australia, the *Theatre Royal* in Sydney.[1] Jewish painters achieved prominence, among them E. P. Fox.[2]

The first settlers were from England; waves followed from Poland and Russia as to the other parts of the world. In nearby New Zealand, congregations were formed in 1843 in Wellington, in 1859 in Auckland and in 1862 in Dunedin.[3]

Among Jews who achieved high levels in Australia's government was

Friedman token.
1857

Abrahams token.
1855

Sir Isaac Isaacs, first as an Attorney-General, then as a Justice of the Supreme Court, and finally as Governor-General of Australia in 1931.[4] Sir Julius Vogel was Prime Minister in 1873. Lt. General Sir John Monash, one of Australia's greatest soldiers was the son of a Polish immigrant.[5]

Of the seven million population of Australia in 1951, 52,000 were Jews.

The Josephs token of 1855 is a penny, 33mm in diameter. The half penny is 29mm. On one side, *Town Toll Gate, R. Josephs.* On the other: *Van Diemens Land.*

The Friedman token is a penny dated 1857. On one side: *I. Friedman, Argyle Street, Pawnbroker.* On the other side: *Tasmania, 1857.*

A draper (clothier), Lewis Abrahams issued tokens in two sizes, a 29mm half-penny and a 33mm penny. On one side: *Lewis Abrahams, Liverpool Street, Hobart Town,* Draper. On the other: *Tasmania, 1855.*

These tokens were received in exchanges with an Australian collector who has also provided a Free Masons Medal earned by a Jewish member of that Order. The medal was awarded to J. W. Israel in 1902: 18K gold with two diamonds.

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1. The Pictorial History of the Jewish People by Nathan Ausubel; 3rd printing, 1954, page 191.
2. Ibid, page 191.
3. Ibid, page 191.
4. Ibid, page 191.
5. Ibid, page 191.

Josephs token.
1855

Free Mason Medal
of J. W. Israel—1902.

What should a non-collector do with your coins?

By Harold Gluck, Ph.D.
Bronx, N.Y.

It has been said of my dear friend, John N. that he is a coin collector of taste, discrimination, and understanding. He specializes in American coins of the past century and all coins of Israel.

He came to me with a problem." One of my friends has inherited a collection of coins. And there are definitely two things of which he knows nothing. One is Sanskrit and the other is coins. I would appreciate it if you could help him with his inheritance. An appointment can be made easily."

Two days later I met Mr. K. He was blunt about his situation. "My wife's uncle died and left her the entire estate. So among the various things we inherited is a coin collection. They may be valuable and again they may not. What do you suggest I do with those coins?"

"You could turn yourself into a collector of coins," I suggested. "You become a numismatist. Regard it as a wonderful hobby. It will open a new world for you."

"My wife said that whatever I decided to do, is o.k. with her," was his reply. "What I would like to know right now is whether or not I have any valuable coins in the collection."

"Did the uncle leave a schedule of the coins with their appraised value?" I asked.

"We thought of that," was his response." We looked through all of his old papers, but couldn't find anything to help us in this matter."

"First thing you should do," I suggested, "is to get an appraisal of the total value of the coins, with an appraisal of each coin in the collection.

Look in the telephone book for appraisers in your city. Best choice would be those who specialize in coin collections as part of an estate. You can ask for their qualifications.

"Second is take a look at your burgarly and fire insurance policies. You may need additional insurance if the collection turns out to be very valuable.

"Third is start reading books and publications on coins. Especially the most valuable ones in your collection. Then go and attend several coin shows in your city or in a nearby area. You may spot similar coins for sale, and thus get an idea of the asking price for them. And you can tell some of the dealers there that you have such coins. Are they interested in purchasing them?

"Fourth thing you can do is to go to a reputable coin dealer. Discuss the matter with him. You can even leave some coins with him on consignment. That simply means you

still have title to them. But he has a right to sell them. You should set a minimum price below which you will not sell. You can even go to a big coin dealer who holds periodic auctions, and ask if they will take the coins on consignment and what their charges are.

"If you have a museum in your locality that has a section devoted to coins, go visit such a museum. Speak to the curator. They may have available funds to purchase coins from time to time."

1. There are relatives and close friends to whom *you* may wish to leave either part of the entire collection of your coins, and if you belong to a coin club, there are certain members you may have in mind. So here are some practical suggestions for you to consider:

2. Speak frankly to the person or persons whom you wish to have those coins. Tell them about the coins. Ask them if they would like to have them. And don't feel squirmish about talking of death. Actually the only time you can talk about it is when you are alive. We are all going to die and that includes myself.

3. Some of your proposed beneficiaries may thank you very much. But don't be surprised if a few thank you for your consideration and tell you they wouldn't know what to do with the coins.

4. Next thing for you to do is to prepare an inventory of the coins you have on hand. And as you acquire more or sell some, make the changes on the inventory sheet. This inventory sheet is not legally part of your will. But it will certainly help the administrator of your estate to check on all the coins in your collection. And it might even prevent fights among your relatives, such as:

"Uncle Joe promised to leave me his special collection of silver dollars. Now where are they? Don't tell me they walked out of the house. Somebody took them and I intend to find out who that person is!"

"You might even prepare an estimated value of each coin, based upon your cost, the present market value, or the value given by the appraiser.

5. This suggestion was given to me by a friend. You can even include some specific books on coins, so that whoever inherits a given group of coins at least know something about the background.

6. Talk over the entire situation with your lawyer as he prepares your will. Always remember that you can change your will anytime you so desire. There are a few special exceptions to that situation.

You can hope that those who will inherit the coins will enjoy them and keep them. But what they finally do with them is just something you will never know!

Coming: ANTI-SEMITISM

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF *The Shekel* to appear Spring 1984

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WANTED

Articles, Photos, Artwork, Anecdotes, Historical Data,
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WEISS REPLACES HACOHEN IN IGCAM SHIFT

The IGCAM in Jerusalem, Ministry of Finance, Israel has announced the appointment of Menachem Weiss of Jerusalem to succeed Nahum Hacohen as Director of the IGCAM for North America.

Mr. Weiss has many years of administrative experience and has been an executive with the Ministry of Finance prior to the appointment to the new post.

The change marks the introduction of the fifth Director since the start of AINA. In AINA's earliest days, programs leading to launch of AINA and the conduct of conventions began with the highly regarded Joseph Milo.

Subsequent directors expanding on these programs included Ephraim Levy, Rafael Aldor, and until most recently, Nahum Hacohen. Mr. Hacohen will remain in America.

The IGCAM will continue to operate from 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 10001. Programs to announce new coins and medals, cooperation with AINA in the launch of new INS clubs, support for AINA conventions and educational publications and activities will continue as in the past.

CAPERNAUM *Continued from page 20*

Beside such figures, 282 gold dinars, weighing about 1.2 kilos (2.6 pounds), may not seem so impressive. Some scholars, however, have cautioned against accepting the accuracy of these enormous figures. On the other hand, I can affirm that an anonymous eighth-century Arab benefactor just gave the Israel Museum in Jerusalem 282 Omayyad gold dinars, which, if sold in today's market, would bring well over a quarter of a million dollars.

BULLETIN

ISRAEL ANNOUNCES NEW TRADE COINS

In a special meeting between IGCAM executives Shmuel Peled and Menachem Weiss, new issues of trade coins were revealed to the AINA Executive Committee meeting in New York City in mid-October.

The new coinage represents another break with traditional issuances which will be good news for collectors. See *The President's Message* for additional news of new paper money collector interest.

Profits from the sale of these coins are earmarked for the improvement of Israel's landscapes, establishment and preservation of her national parks and reserves and excavation of antiquities.

Details	10 Sheqalim Hannuka Coin	10 Sheqalim Herzl coin
Metal Composition	75% Copper 25% Nickel	75% Copper 25% Nickel
Denomination	I.S. 10	I.S.10
Diameter	26 mm	26 mm
Weight	8 grs.	8 grs.
Edge	Smooth	Smooth
Designer	Gabi Neuman	Gabi Neuman
Modelist	Tidhar Dagan	Swiss Federal Mint
Mint	Jerusalem	Berne

ISRAEL HANNUKA COIN FEATURES MENORAH FROM PRAGUE

In the heart of Europe, in the ancient capital of the Czech kings, resides the Jewish community of Prague, one of the earliest and, at times, the largest of Jewish communities in Eastern Europe.

Proofs of a permanent Jewish settlement in Prague date from the second half of the 10th century. In 1270, construction of the *Altneushul* (the "Old-New Synagogue") was completed; this oldest synagogue in Europe, is still in use to this day.

The 16th to 18th centuries were the golden age of the Prague community. The outstanding personalities of their generations, such as the Maharal, creator of *The Golem*, Yom Tov Heller, David Oppenheim and Ezekiel Landau, served in Prague as rabbis.

At the time of the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, there were about 56,000 Jews living in Prague. From October 6, 1941, deportation of these Jews began to the death camps or to the ghetto of Theresienstadt. There were few survivors.

Today, the Prague community numbers less than 3,000 Jews living in the shadow of the historic buildings which remain from the period of splendor of Prague Jewry.

Description of the Coin

Reverse: An ornate Hannukah lamp from Prague (from the Israel Museum collection) with the images of Moses and Aaron on either side and the words: Hanukkiya from Prague, 18th Century".

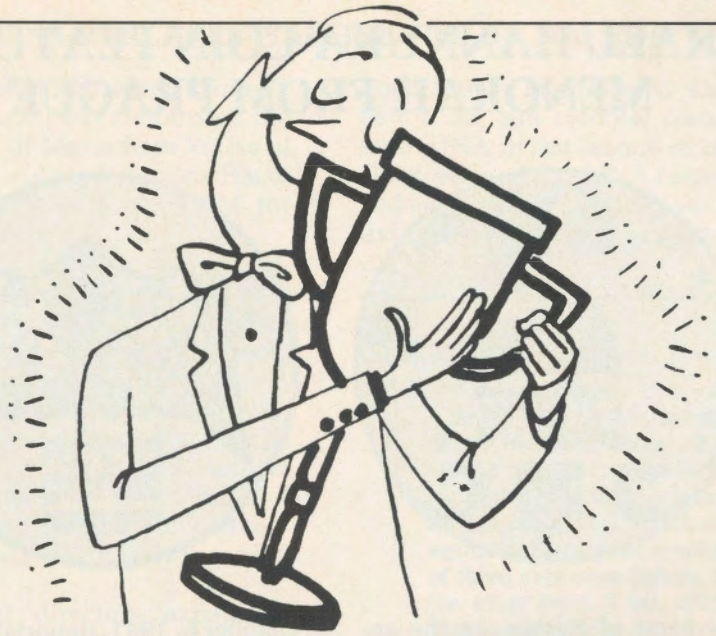
Obverse: The State emblem, and at its sides, decorative work from the Hannuka lamp; the word "Israel" in Hebrew, Latin and Arabic characters; the mint year: 1983. On the proof coin: face value of 2 sheqalim and the Hebrew letter "mem" mintmark. On the B.U. coin: "1 sheqel" and the Star of David mintmark.

Designer: Nathan Karp

Minting: Proof Coin, Federal Mint, Bern, Switzerland. B.U. Coin, The Monnaie de Paris.

Details of the Coins

Description	Nom. Value	Metal	Diam.	Wt.	Edge
Silver Proof	2 Sheqalim	Silver/850	37mm.	28.8 gr.	Milled
Silver B.U.	1 Sheqel	Silver/850	30mm.	14.4 gr.	Smooth



TOP RECRUITERS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AINA ELECTED OFFICERS OR DIRECTORS	
J. J. VAN GROVER	10
MOE WEINSCHEL	3
MEL WACKS	2
NAT SOBEL	2
DAVID PASZAMANT	1
JERRY YAHALOM	1

WORKING MEMBERS	
IRVING WOOL	13
GEORGE GILBERT	6
SAM ABRAMS	5
SANFORD BROWN	4
JACK GARFIELD	3
MICHAEL DRUCK	2
MARGO RUSSELL	2
CARL ROSENBLUM	1
LARRY GENTILE, JR.	1
S. R. VERGES	1

Here's a chance to reap rewards for helping to build AINA. New members enrolled between May 1, 1983 and April 15, 1984 will be scored on this page in *The Shekel*.

First Prize winner (Top Sponsor): the Jerusalem Intl. Book Fair Medal of 1977 (CM-89; Tombac-Mintage 350). *Second Prize:* Jerusalem Intl. Numis. Mtg. of 1979 Medal (CM-99; Tombac-Mintage 2,945). *Third Prize:* 15th Anniv. Tour Medal.

Have you enrolled a friend in AINA?

ISRAEL

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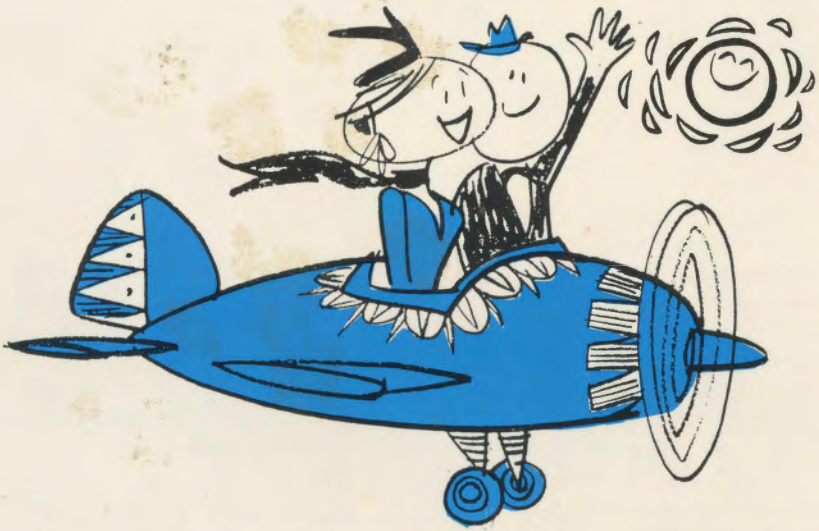

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Speakers:
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Edward Schuman

Convention will have Exhibits, Bourse, Educational Forums

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